

EDUCATORS FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. ALMA S. ADAMS

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, today, I am proudly introducing the bicameral EDUCATORS for America Act, along with my colleagues, Representatives AXNE, HAYES, and GALLEGOS, and my partners Senators REED and CASEY.

Education is perhaps the most precious gift we have, the sharing of information about our world as we currently understand it to the next generation. Being an outstanding educator requires a generosity of spirit, a will of steel, and a heart full of empathy.

I understand the value of education. As an educator for forty years, I had the opportunity to see bright young minds in my classrooms hard at work. I always hoped that some of these bright young minds would go on to become educators themselves.

Unfortunately, I saw that students aspiring to become educators were sometimes discouraged—by the student debt they would face, by the salaries they would earn, and by the lack of support they would confront.

Educators are struggling, particularly as we continue to grapple with the pandemic. We cannot afford to neglect the educator pipeline any longer. We simply cannot wait for the next generation of educators to appear. We must act intentionally to urgently recruit educators into the classroom, and more importantly, retain educators in the classroom. As such, educators should be given the opportunities and support they need. This bill does just that: it addresses educator preparation, support for educators, financial assistance, and mobilization of states and local communities in improving the educator pipeline.

I will close with this quotation from a titan in American history, W.E.B. Du Bois: "Of all the Civil Rights for which the world has struggled, and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental."

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
GRANT COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE, THE HONORABLE
GEORGE S. CURRY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and leadership of Grant County Circuit Court Judge George S. Curry.

I first came to know Judge Curry when I had the honor of trying a case before him as a young special prosecutor. His skill as a judge to be fair, impartial and his knowledge of the rules of evidence made that trial much easier for a young victim of sexual assault, and for everyone in the courtroom.

George was a product of Southwest Wisconsin. He was raised there, went to school there and served most of public life there. He was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, and graduated from Darlington High School. He graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa with a B.S. in Economics in 1969. He received his

law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1972. While attending law school George also served in the United States Army Reserve and was honorably discharged in 1971.

George began his career as an attorney in private practice in 1972 and in 1990, Governor Tommy Thompson appointed him to the Grant County Circuit Court Judgeship. Judge Curry presided over the Grant County Circuit Court for 19 years until 2009. He was proud of developing and implementing the Grant County Fresh Start Program, a class that aimed to educate offenders and curb underage drinking. George was selected by Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Shirley Abrahamson to chair the Judicial Conduct Advisory Committee for six years and, in 2018, was elected a Fellow of the Wisconsin Law Foundation for his distinguished and outstanding service as a Circuit Court Judge. Following his time as a Judge, George opened his own law practice, Curry Law & Mediation, focusing primarily on personal injury law. George was highly regarded for his ethics, integrity, and fair-mindedness during his distinguished legal career.

Judge Curry passed away on Saturday Dec. 4, 2021 surrounded by his wife Linda and their extended family, and I am honored to recognize the life and service of a man who served the citizens of Southwest Wisconsin with such dignity and integrity.

DAVID MOSER**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Moser on his retirement from the United States Department of Labor Office of Workman's Compensation Programs' Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation.

For nearly twenty years, David served across a variety of positions at the Department of Labor serving the American people. David started his public service as a member of the U.S. Navy from June 9, 1981 through February 1, 1994. He became a Hospital Corpsman after boot camp and corps school, during which time he was stationed at several Naval locations, including at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia from 1981 to 1982 followed by a 6-month deployment on the USS America to Europe. From 1984 to 1986, he went to the U.S. Marine Base Camp Butler in Okinawa, Japan with the 3rd Marine Corps Battalion as a Corpsman for an Artillery Unit followed by stints at the U.S. Naval Hospital at Subic Clinic in Subic Bay, Philippines and the U.S. Marine Corps Air Base in Yuma, AZ, as a corpsman for a Hawks Missile Unit from 1986 to 1990. He then moved to be a Medical Representative for the U.S. Marine Corps Office Selection Team in Denver, Colo. from 1990 to 1994.

After he left the U.S. Navy, David joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, working several different positions in the mail room, customer service and foreign medical program. David subsequently joined the U.S. DOL, Office of Worker's Compensation, Energy Employee's Occupational Illness Compensation Program (EEOICP) in the Denver

District Office as a Claims Examiner, Senior Claims Examiner, and Medical Benefits Examiner from August 2005 to his retirement. His hard work and dedication to public service is tremendous.

I wish David all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT
OF CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT
BRUCE A. FONG

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Chief Master Sergeant Bruce A. Fong who will retire from the United States Air Force on December 18, 2021, after more than 31 years of military service.

Chief Fong is a native of Central New York and a graduate of Whitesboro Senior High School. He also holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Information Systems from Columbia College of Missouri, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Chief Fong entered the active-duty Air Force under the delayed enlistment program in December 1979 and attended basic military training in July 1980 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Following Basic Military Training, he went on to technical training at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas to become an Air Cargo Specialist.

In September 1980 Chief Fong, then Airman Basic, was assigned to the 603rd Military Airlift Support Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan. He worked in the ramp services section where he was responsible for the on/off-loading of cargo on military and civilian aircraft such as the Boeing 747, the Lockheed Martin C-5 Galaxy, C-141A/B Starlifter, C-130 Hercules, the McDonnell Douglas C-9 Nightingale, and the KC-10 Extender. Chief Fong became phase two qualified on the C-130 and C-141, which provided the ability to service the aircraft without the supervision of a loadmaster. During his time at Kadena Air Base, Chief Fong was involved many times in an extraordinarily successful joint service deployment exercise "Team Spirit" supervising the loading operations of military aircraft, often working with untrained Air Force and Marine Corps load crews.

After two and a half years in Okinawa, Chief Fong had a permanent change of station to Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, where he was assigned to the 436th Aerial Port Squadron. He worked in the special handling section and was responsible for the timely and accurate inventory of critical cargo using the Aerial Port Documentation and Management System. Chief Fong also participated in the NATO exercise "Bright Star," where he spent time in Cairo Egypt assisting the 436th Airlift Control Element in the on/off-loading of sixty aircraft and officially recognized for his effort by the Airlift Control Element commander.

After a 10-year break in service Chief Fong joined the 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard in February 1996 as a Drill Status Guardsmen. He was assigned to the 174th Logistics Readiness Squadron as a Traffic Management Specialist.

In October 1998, Chief Fong was hired as a full-time military technician with the 174th Communications Flight. In his lengthy career within the organization, he held positions as a network administrator, network infrastructure technician, network control center supervisor, operations superintendent, and the finally as the Chief Enlisted Manager. As Chief Enlisted Manager, he was responsible for the training, readiness, and morale of all assigned enlisted personnel in support of combat and domestic operations. Chief Fong's other successful accomplishments include implementation of the following systems: Electronic Management Tracking System; Defense Biometric Identification System, and the Electronic Technical Order Distribution System, many of these accomplishments were firsts for the 174th Fighter Wing, the Air National Guard, and the United States Air Force. Chief Fong's other successes included installs and significant upgrades to the following base communications infrastructure and systems: Gigabit-Ethernet, Base Wireless Access, Base Area Network Modernization, NetApp Mass Storage, Network Control Center—Virtualization, Base Mass Notification System, and the Common Access Card, all told, totaling in the millions of dollars.

In March of 2000, Chief Fong deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. Following the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on New York City, Chief Fong played an integral part providing back-end communications support during Operation NOBLE EAGLE, when the 174th Fighter Wing was tasked to fly Combat Air Patrol missions over New York City. In November of 2006, he deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. At the height of the COVID pandemic, Chief Fong served as a Liaison Officer between the Air Force and Army for four and a half months. He provided logistical support to the New York State Military Joint Task Force, which was the command-and-control hub for all Central New York.

Throughout his career with the 174th Attack Wing, one of Chief Fong's crowning achievements and proudest moments has been serving as a Ceremonial Guardsman with 174th Attack Wing's Base Honor Guard. During his time with the Base Honor Guard, he performed well over seven hundred active-duty, retiree, and veteran funerals, as well as participating in parades and other details supporting the base and community. This often involved working holidays, weekends, and traveling throughout 23 New York State counties, covering over 23,324 square miles.

For his 31 years of service Chief Fong has earned numerous decorations which include: the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster; and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. His military unit awards include: the Air Force Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with combat "V" device and five oak leaf clusters. His military campaign and service awards include: the National Defense Service Medal; the Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 7 oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with one bronze campaign star; Global

War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border; the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters; the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with silver hour glass and bronze mobilization "M" device; the Professional Military Education Ribbon with two oak leaf clusters; the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

Chief Fong is married to Cynthia Kellar; has two children, Andrew and Jessica; and three grandchildren, Noah, Brooklyn, and Grayson. He is an avid photographer, trained in martial arts, and has flown solo in a Cessna 152, 182 and a Piper warrior in pursuit of a private pilot's license. Chief Fong is proud of his service to his country and looking forward to retirement and his next adventure.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing Chief Master Sergeant Bruce A. Fong for his three decades of honorable service. I wish Chief Fong the best in his retirement.

CHUCK GROSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chuck Gross of the Adams County Education Consortium on his retirement.

For more than six years, Chuck has served the Adams County Education community in his role as Executive Director. Chuck has worked in many different roles with several organizations over the years. One of his earliest roles was as Sr. Vice President and General Manager of Kinzley-Hughes from 1988 to 1995. He then moved to Broadband and Associates from 1995 to 1996 and transitioned to the consulting world as a Principal at Worden Gross Consulting for eleven years where he provided public relations, community relations, marketing and communications to senior executives at some of America's most well-known brands, including the Ritz-Carlton and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Following Worden Gross, Chuck went to work for Sector Brands for seven years working as a senior branding and marketing communications consultant, working collaboratively with each client's executive leadership team to enhance its value and position the organization for leadership and growth.

His final role has been with the Adams County Education Consortium where he has been responsible for directing a county-wide partnership—including school districts, higher education institutions, local governments and businesses—that works to enhance academic skills development, career exploration, and relevant work-ready skills for all students in Adams County. My office has worked with Chuck on several different occasions over the years and I am inspired by his work ethic and contributions to Adams County Education community.

I wish Chuck all the best in retirement and send gratitude for his service to our community, the State of Colorado, and the United States of America.

HONORING CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ELLA MAE SMALL FOR A LIFETIME OF COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor City Council Member Ella Mae Small for a lifetime of service to her community and local government in Cabarrus County, North Carolina.

Upon graduation from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Councilwoman Small first worked as a schoolteacher in multiple districts throughout North Carolina and Georgia and served as a professor at North Carolina A&T University. After retiring from teaching, she assumed the high calling of public service when she completed her husband Allen Small's term on the Concord City Council after he passed while holding office. As the first African American female member of the Council, Councilwoman Small paved the way for greater diversity in local representation and provided astute and knowledgeable leadership on the Council for over 15 years.

Over the course of her career, Councilwoman Small has exhibited exceptional commitment and dedication to improving her community. As a schoolteacher, she served as one of the first kindergarten teachers in North Carolina. Her influence as a trailblazer helped cement this position as a permanent fixture of primary education. Praised highly by her peers, Councilwoman Small exerted similar influence on the Concord City Council to serve as a catalyst for positive change. For example, this past year she helped take charge of creating the Concord United Committee for the purpose of further addressing issues associated with race, equity, and diversity in the City. Her exemplary leadership provides a standard for all public servants. Although well-known for her role and initiatives as Councilwoman, she has also remained firmly committed to carrying out her responsibilities as a concerned citizen by holding many positions with national and local organizations such as the National Education Association and the Cabarrus Community Council among many others.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt appreciation to Councilwoman Small for her years of exemplary service as a teacher, community leader, and public servant. I speak for our entire community in wishing her and her family continued success and happiness as she moves into retirement.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring Councilwoman Ella Mae Small for her extraordinary service.

CONGRATULATING JEFF "THE IRONMAN" DOWNER ON HIS RETIREMENT AS GROUNDSKEEPER AT PEKIN HIGH SCHOOL AFTER 36 YEARS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jeff "The Ironman" Downer on